

by the Rev. James Maury, a Huguenot, a man of broad and independent mind, and a correct classical scholar. For two years he remained with this masterful tutor, working hard at his books during school time, and during holidays and vacations taking abundant exercise, hunting the mountains for their plentiful game and joining heartily in all the sports of boyhood.

In 1760, Jefferson of his own will and desire, began his studies at the College of William and Mary, situated at Williamsburg, the capital of the colonial government of Virginia. Williamsburg was an unpaved, hap-hazard village of about a thousand inhabitants. Small as the little capital may appear to us by comparison, it was nevertheless the center of much social and civic activity. While the legislature and Great Court were in session, prominent personages from all parts of the colony resided there with their families, and the winter season was passed in a round of pleasures and imposing functions. By reason of his connection with the Randolphs, Jefferson had easy access to the aristocratic set. Without the Randolphs he would probably have been long excluded from the fashionable circle, for he was a great, raw-boned, freckled-face, sandy-haired boy, awkward and shy. While he did not disdain the amusements of society, he did not forget the purpose for which he was spending his time and money in Williamsburg.

William and Mary was a poor specimen of a college in those days. It was poorly governed and poorly equipped, and its teachers were all that teachers should not be. There was one exception to this indictment. "It was my great good fortune," said Jefferson in speaking of his college days, "and what probably fixed the destinies of my life, that Dr. William Small of Scotland was then professor of mathematics, a man profound in most of the useful branches of science, with a happy talent of communication, correct and gentlemanly manners, and an enlarged and liberal mind. He, most happily for me, became soon attached to me and made me his daily companion, when not engaged in the school; and from his conversation I got my first views of the expansion of science and of the system of things in which we are placed." Dr. Small was a skeptic as